

WCFC/OCT Joint Meeting
June 6, 2014
Gresham City Hall
Gresham, Oregon

OCT welcome – Allan Wells, president

Roundtable introductions

Oregon Community Trees - mission statement

“Promote healthy urban and community forests through leadership, education awareness and advocacy.”

Washington Community Forestry Council - mission statement

“Provide leadership to create a self-sustaining urban and community forestry program that preserves, plants and manages forests and trees for public benefits and quality of life.”

Discussion: similarities and differences between the two organizations. Recruitment strategies, OCT as a 501(c) 3 non-profit, council membership composition, meeting schedules, awards programs, solicitation of award nominees, OCT on Facebook, OCT annual work plan, common missions, advocacy, WCFC listserv, ODF bi-monthly newsletter, WA DNR monthly electronic newsletter. OCT gives out \$2500 in planting grants to Tree Cities USA in the state of Oregon each year, funded in part through the annual OCT one-day conference.

Announcements

Paul Ries – new online Graduate Certificate in Urban Forestry now available through Oregon State University

Kathy Sheehan – the importance of urban forestry advisory councils to state programs and the US Forest Service; accountability reviews for both states were excellent during the 2013 program review process; thanks for work and involvement of council members.

Discussion: precedence for holding joint meetings of Alaska-Oregon-Washington urban forestry programs and advisory councils. Alaska has an informal advisory council, not as formally constituted as OCVT or WCFC. Alaska’s council makes use of monthly conference calls to stay in touch in addition to quarterly meetings.

Carrie Gallagher – report on Alliance for Community Trees (ACTrees) survey of urban forestry councils nationwide.

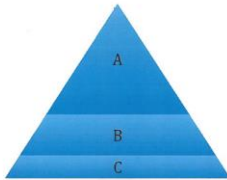
Discussion: the roles of councils; interaction with program staff and leadership; overlap and defined roles; state needs; defined audience(s) were missing in nearly all state council descriptions.

1 Advocacy Training

2 Carrie Gallagher, Executive Director, Alliance for Community Trees

3 Ms. Gallagher led the group in a training session focused on urban forestry advocacy to decision-
4 makers. See Attachment A for ACTrees' national policy advocacy outline; more online at
5 <http://actrees.org/what-we-do/public-policy/>.

6 Participants were asked to prioritize action items based on their council mission:



- Level A - immediate priority
- Level B - secondary, important but not a priority concern
- Level C – long-term goals and accomplishments

12 Breakout groups were formed based on professional affiliation, such as
13 education, State Extension Service, consultants, nursery professionals, municipal staff, and state
14 staff. Discussion following break-out sessions identified the following actions.

15 **Level A**

16 **OCT** – annual conference; convening professionals in the urban forestry field

17 **WCFC** – develop a list of “A” priorities; convening professionals in the urban forestry field;
18 Evergreen Communities Act

19 Additional WCFC discussion revolved around consistent delivery to Commissioner of Public
20 Lands; consistent implementation of goals related to Forest Action Plan through administrative
21 changes; do the councils belong in the A category at the state level?; lateral leadership; shared
22 goals

23 **B**

24 **OCT** – build relationships; build capacity within cities

25 **WCFC** – build relationships; support interdependence between program and council; develop
26 and support leadership linkages throughout the state

27 Carrie: B level is the “DNA” of the Urban and Community Forestry programs in both states!
28 Advocates and urban forestry champions within communities are the “gene pool.”

29 C

30 **OCT** – autonomy; render down mission and strategies to come up with goal

31 **WCFC** – alignment with program, space for development, dealing with change in personnel;
32 addressing goals in Forest Action Plan



**WCFC Meeting
June 6, 2014
Gresham City Hall
Gresham, Oregon**

Present: Sheila Gray, Chair; Dave Erickson, Vice Chair; Lisa Ciecko, Garth Davis, Cindy Deffe, Terry Flatley, Jim Freed, Kirsten Lints, Sandy Salisbury, Kathy Sheehan, Kathy Wolf, Linden Lampman, Micki McNaughton, Ben Thompson

Absent: Brian Cramer, Ara Erickson, David Nelson, Joe Scorcio

Guest: Carrie Gallagher, Sarah Foster

Convene: 1:50pm

February meeting minutes: Motion to approve as revised: Dave E. – motion, Cindy D. – second. Motion carried.

Roundtable introductions

Linden L. reviewed DNR's travel reimbursement form and process for new Council members.

Ben T. - TCUSA updates

Ben – Montesano, Aberdeen, Elma – not responsive, Shelton – VERY interested

Micki – Ridgefield, Kalama, Sequim – all responsive

Dave E. – Othello, Cle Elem, Quincy

Linden suggested contacting City Clerks to learn who has responsibility for trees in the community.

- Attach list of assigned cities to minutes as well as sending out immediately after meeting.

Ben: TCUSA is a continuing outreach effort, evolving over time.

Lisa C.: Google Docs has not worked as a constituent management tool to track who has contacted which city, or who their city contacts were.

Linden asked that Council members report all contact with cities and meeting outcomes to staff to be recorded in the UCF database so that there is a record of who contacted whom and when that contact happened. Councilmembers, feel free to ask staff for specific contacts at cities you intend to contact.

Discussion outcome: Rather than using Google Docs, Council members will report outcomes of meetings with cities directly to UCF staff so that those can be recorded in the UCF database. Council members will contact UCF staff for city contact information.

Lisa C. – enhanced awards program:

Cindy D. and Garth D. are working to identify a nominee for the award presentation at the September meeting in Spokane. Garth will arrange a ceremonial tree planting in honor of the award recipient.

DNR’s Wood Waste Utilization program may be able to provide wooden bowls, wood frames for award certificates, or other recognition items. Linden will check with the Shop Supervisor at Cedar Creek Correctional Camp.

Invite tree boards from the community in which the Council is meeting to Council meetings. Let’s try a working lunch to meet and work with representatives/delegates of local jurisdictions, similar to the lunch discussion with the City of Gresham during the Joint meeting with OCT. Ask the representatives to bring a specific topic for focused discussion.

Garth D. – stormwater management education strategy:

Build a partnership with Ecology and cooperate in funding initiatives that incorporate trees into stormwater planning. Garth has good contacts with Spokane area Ecology staff, and will bring those people to the September meeting in Spokane for discussion. We will also try to locate EPA staff who are willing to come and talk about the stormwater permitting process, along with information about how trees and tree planting fit into the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting process.

- At the next Council meeting, the focus will be on presentations to educate councilmembers about stormwater issues that intersect with urban trees, with roundtable discussion following.

Understanding policy along with current and developing BMPs:

- EPA
- Ecology/water quality/LID
- City – planners, public works, finance
- Public health (Kathy W.)
- WSDOT
- Public works & utilities

Benefits and drivers of tree planting fills out the story:

- Public health (Kathy W.)
- Food security

1 Lisa: identify gaps and barriers, missing pieces, which we can then explore, asking for
2 research/information to help develop Council's understanding of the issue.

3 Kathy W.: develop a matrix to help locate where the pieces are:

	Fed/State	Local	Regulators	Activators
Policy	X			
BMP	X	X		X
Co-Benefits	X			X
\$\$\$	X			X

4
5 A suggestion was made to invite local community members to participate in these discussions as
6 a sort of seminar-type meeting, and ask them to respond to information presented to get a more
7 rounded view of issues and challenges at the local level.

8 Questions to ask panel participants to address:

- 9 • What are the roles of your agency/organization?
- 10 • What are the parameters/constraints under which permitting or regulatory organizations
- 11 function?
- 12 • Who's in charge of what?
- 13 • What are the rules promulgated by your agency/organization?
- 14 • What are those rules designed to accomplish? Are they working?
- 15 • All: policy, BMPs, insights regarding urban trees as part of stormwater solutions

16 We need to know what we don't know:

- 17 • What is the current playing field?
- 18 • What are the rules now? H
- 19 • How do we change minds, rather than rules? Since the rules don't seem to need
- 20 changing...

21 Get ourselves better informed and then launch educational outreach.

- 22 ➤ Assemble a 'homework' package for learning stormwater management and regulatory
- 23 basics ahead of the next Council meeting. Lisa will assemble documents provided by
- 24 Council members and distribute online.

25 Other arenas to explore:

- 26 • Puget Sound Partnership
- 27 • Governor's priorities
- 28 • Commissioner of Public Lands' priorities

29 Educate ourselves → educate others

30
31 Partnership opportunities to begin educating the public after we educate ourselves:

- 32 • Oregon Community Trees
- 33 • Plant Amnesty (Seattle)
- 34 • Planning Association of Washington (PAW)
- 35 • American Public Works Association (APWA)
- 36 • National/Washington Recreation and Parks Association (NRPOA/WRPA)

- American Planning Association (APA); Washington and Oregon state chapters and regional subchapters
- Cities; urban foresters, city staff in public works, parks and planning
- Ecology; what they have to offer, what they already have in place
- EPA; what they have to offer, what they require

September's meeting in Spokane will be focused on learning!

Lisa offered a literature review that Forterra developed a few years ago to get Council started. She will distribute online for Council access.

All councilmembers are asked to contribute articles or other learning resources and send those to Lisa for distribution.

Sandy S. mentioned the [WSDOT Chapter 5 in Highway Runoff Manual](#) which deals with stormwater impacts and best management practices (BMPs).

Learning activities and discussion at the September Council meeting will focus on organizations in the first two columns from above matrix: Federal, State and local government regulations, BMPs, programs, etc.

➤ **COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL EDUCATE THEMSELVES AND SHARE INFORMATION.**

Lisa will collate materials that Council members contribute in Dropbox.

Adjourn: 2:55pm. Motion to adjourn – Cindy D. Second – Sandy S. Motion carried.

**Next Washington Community Forestry meeting:
Spokane, Washington (location TBA)
September 10, 2014
9:00am – 3:00pm**